# FRANK B. CONVERSE'S

NEW AND COMPLETE

# Wethod for the Banjo

WITH OR WITHOUT A MASTER.

NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY S. T. GORDON,

No. 706 BROADWAY.

1867.

York.

PAGI	KEY OF E MINOR.	MISCELLANEOUS
Rudiments of Music	PAGE	PAGI
KEY OF A MAJOR.	Mrs. Grundy	Annie of the Vale 82
Juba 13	Pea Nut Gal	Arkansas Traveller
Old Seventy-six	Charlie is my darling 37	Barley Reel 63
Ramsey's Jig	Mickey Malooney	Beacon Jig
Hard Times	OVUMAR OFFICE	Brigg's favorite Jig
Rural Walk around	GUITAR STYLE.	Brigg's Jig varied
Silver Lake Waltz	Position of Right hand. Manner of touching the	Brighton
Bully for all	strings. Diagram of Right hand.	Caralla Dalla
Walk into the Parlor 18	Right hand fingering	Clar Hamping
Philadelphia Jig 19		Corel Police
Luke West's Walk around 20		Cotton Ded Time
KEY OF E MAJOR.	Exercises in Chords 40	Cupid's dream Waltz
Lynchburg Town 21	KEY OF A MAJOR.	
Spring Jig		Fairy Waltz
Money Musk       .	New York March	Foster's Jig 60 Fuller's favorite Reel
Jordan 23	Diadem Gallopade	Home sweet home—Instrumental
St. Patrick's day	Lilly Polka	
KEY OF D MAJOR.	Fairy May 45	Hope Waltz
Whack Row de Dow 25	KEY OF E MAJOR.	Irish Jig 61 Luke West's Walk Around 61
Cruelty to Johnny 26	La Mexicana Waltz 47	Marseillaise Hymn
Scotch Air	Victory March	Matt Peel's Walk Around
Antietam Jig	Fanny Polka	Odd Fellows' March
KEY OF G MAJOR.	Fanny Polka	Operatic Jig
Spring of Shelalah 28	1	Peel's Clog dance
Oregon Reel		Rainbow Schottisch
The Girl I left behind me	May 10 ka	Rattlesnake Jig
	Oh, native scenes	Root, hog, or die
KEY OF F# MINOR.	KEY OF D MAJOR.	Snodgrass' Favorite Jig
Irishman's Shanty . "	Wlaman Walter	The Captain's sly glance 80
Antipat Jig		The Cuckoo
Abraham's Daughter	Why do summer roses fade	The Lion—Jig
KEY OF A MINOR.	land man	Wait for the waggon—Jig 62
Cum Plum Gum Jig 33		Whole hog or none 67
John Anderson Jig 34		Willie, we have missed you—Jig 68
Blue Eagle Jail		
Blarney Jig	Transposition 59	

# ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC.

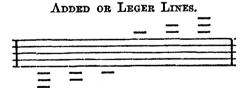
# CHAPTER I.

#### RUDIMENTS.

Music is written on five parallel lines and in their intermediate spaces. The lines and spaces collectively taken are called a *Staff* or *Stave*. These five lines and spaces make up nine degrees.

Staff	OR	STAVE.
Lines	_	Spaces
1	5 —	T3-4-T
1 3		1 2 - 1
L_1		<del></del>

If a greater range of tones be required, either above or below the Staff, Added or Leger Lines are used.



Melody is a succession of single musical sounds or tones following each other, according to the rules of good taste.

Harmony is: several sounds combined and played together.

Musical Sounds are represented, as to their comparative length, by characters called notes, of which there are seven varieties. These

notes, placed upon the degrees of the staff, which are named after the first seven Letters of the Alphabet, viz., A, B, C, D, E, F, G, show the differences of pitch, and fixes the position of the letters upon it.

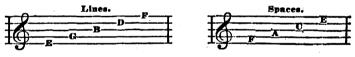
G OR TREBLE CLEF.



Norz. This is the only Clef used for Banjo music.

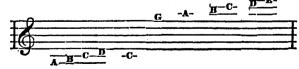
The letters upon the staff are reckoned from the Clef line, (second line), which is G, thus: ascending you say, G, A, B, C, &c.; descending, you reckon backwards, thus, G, F, E, D, &c.

NAMES OF THE DEGREES OF THE STAFF.



Note. The letters in the spaces spell the word Face.

LEGER LINES AND SPACES.



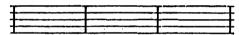
All notes have corresponding Rests (marks of silence) of equal (The Pause ?, placed either over or under a note, signifies that duration of time.

### TABLE OF RESTS.



Music is divided into equal portions, called measures, represented to the eve by short bars drawn across the Staff.

#### MEASURES.



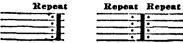
A Double Bar placed at the end, denotes that the piece is finished. When found at any other place, it denotes that a part of the tune, or the preceding strain is finished.

#### DOUBLE BAR.



Dots placed on either side of a double bar, indicate that the strain on the same side with the dots is to be repeated.

# DOTTED DOUBLE BARS



duration of time can be increased according to the wish of the p former.



## CHAPTER II.

Time is dividing sounds into equal parts or quantities.

There are three varieties of time; viz., Common Time, Triple Tim and Compound Time.

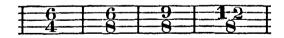
4 VARIETIES OF COMMON TIME.

3 VARIETIES OF TRIPLE TIM





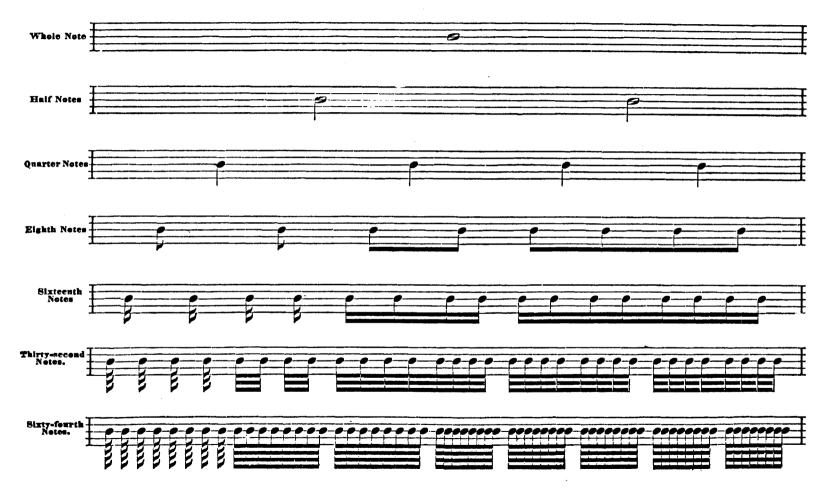
FOUR VARIETIES OF COMPOUND TIME.



The upper figure indicates the number of parts in a measure, th lower figure the kind of note that fills each of the parts.

A Dot placed immediately after a note, adds one half to its origin: value of time.

# DIFFERENT KINDS OF NOTES AND THEIR COMPARATIVE VALUE.





An additional dot is sometimes used which adds one half of the teenth note.

# SHARPS, FLATS, AND NATURALS.

- A sharp [2] placed before a note, raises it one semitone (half tone.)
- A Flat [5] placed before a note lowers it one semitone.
- A Natural [1] restores a note that has been affected by a sharp or flat to its original sound.

#### ILLUSTRATION.



Sharps or flats placed at the beginning of a piece, are called the Signature, and they affect all notes of corresponding names throughout a piece.

Note. The signature will be more fully explained in its proper place



All the F's, C's, and G's must be played sharp, i. e., one semitone higher.

Accidentals are either sharps or flats occurring during a piece, not of the signature. Their influence lasts throughout the measure in which they are found, unless contradicted by another accidental. If value of the first dot. For example, a quarter note with two dots an accidental be placed before the last note of a measure and the first would be equal in time to a quarter note, an eighth note, and a six- note of the following measure be on the same degree, the effect of the accidental continues through that measure also, without being again written.



#### CHAPTER III.

DIRECTIONS FOR STRINGING THE BANJO.

For the first string get a Violin E string. For the second string get an A Violin string. For the third, a D Violin string. For the fourth, a D Guitar string. (Some dealers have 4th strings made expressly for the Banjo, but as the Guitar strings are long enough for

properly constructed Banjoes, they answer all purposes.) For the fifth string get a fine, Violin E string.

#### MANNER OF TUNING THE BANJO.

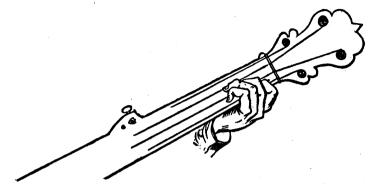
Tune 4th string to A. (Tuning Fork or Piano.) Place a finger on the 4th string at the 7th fret, which makes E, tune the third string in unison. Then place a finger on the 3d string at the 4th fret, making G#, tune the second string in unison. Then place a finger on the 2d string at the 3d fret, tune the first string in unison. Tune the 5th string an octave above the 3d string.

#### THE BANJO IN TUNE.



#### MANNER OF HOLDING THE BANJO.

Sit in an easy upright position, neither too high nor too low, the Banjo resting on the front of the thigh, the neck inclined upwards, and a little forward, resting in the fork of the left hand, formed by the thumb and forefinger. The thumb should be kept pretty well under the neck, although it has no fixed position. Elevate the elbow a little, thus enabling the fingers to stop the strings with ease.



RIGHT HAND.

The right fore arm rests upon the rim, about four or five inches from the tail piece. Partly close the hand, allowing the first finger (nail) to rest upon the first string. The thumb a little curved and hanging on the fifth string. The position of the fingers is never changed in playing Banjo style, the hand being moved from the wrist. The first finger projects a little from the remaining fingers, striking the strings like a hammer. The thumb can be moved at pleasure.

Note.—To bring the fingers in proper position, hold a pen-knife in the closed fingers. The first finger slightly projecting but held close beside the second finger.

DIAGRAM No. 3.

Position of the Right Hand.



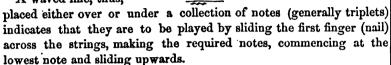
#### CHAPTER IV.

SIGNS FOR FINGERING. BANJO STYLE.

Right hand.

× Thumb — 1 1st finger.

A waved line, thus,



Triplet of the same notes, thus,



are generally made upon two strings, with the × and 1st finger. Right hand fingering is written under the notes.

# Left hand.

o, open string; 1, 1st finger; 2, 2d finger; 3, 3d finger; 4, 4th finger. In order to facilitate execution it often becomes necessary to sound a note by pulling the strings with a finger of the left hand. Notes to be made in this manner are marked thus: 1, 2, 3, 4, the number in the half circle indicating the finger required for pulling the string. Left hand fingering is written above the notes.

#### HARMONICS.

Left hand fingering the same as in ordinary playing.

# Right hand.

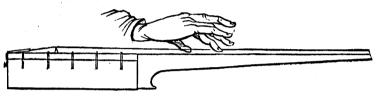
Place the ball of the second finger ligthly on the string at the 18th fret, strike the string with the thumb under the hand and immediately upon striking raise the finger quickly from the string. In fingering the strings with the left hand, the right hand must be moved accord-

ingly, always keeping the ball of the second finger of the right hand, 13 frets from the stopped note.

Harmonics sound one octave above the written notes.

#### DIAGRAM No. 4.

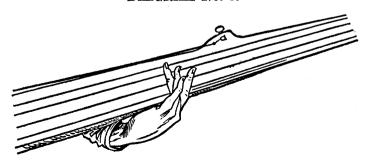
Position of the Right Hand in Harmonics.



LEFT HAND HARMONICS.

There are several harmonic sounds, or (properly speaking) positions which for convenience are made with the left hand by placing the third finger (L H) lightly across the strings, and striking the required strings with the right hand near the bridge. The positions for obtaining these harmonics are at the 7th, 12th, and 19th frets, and on the head about the distance of an inch from the Rim. also on the 5th string opposite the 20th fret.

#### DIAGRAM No. 5.



A Chord is, three or more sounds played together as one.

#### CHORDS.



Harp Chords are used in both Banjo and Guitar styles. The notes comprising the chord are played in rapid succession one after the other from the lowest note upwards.

#### HARP CHORDS.

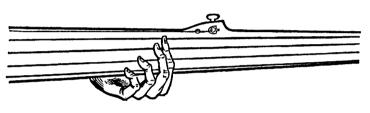


Barre Chords are used in both Banjo and Guitar styles. To make a Barré, press the first finger of the left hand across the strings at the required position, the thumb under and pressing the neck directly opposite the first finger, leaving the remaining fingers free to stop the strings when desired.



DIAGRAM No. 6.

Position of Left Hand in Making a Barre.



# CHAPTER V.

The Triplet is three notes with a figure 3 and a slur placed over them, thus:

They must be played in the time of two of the same kind of notes.



the usual size, and are to be played as quick as possible, joining them sufficient force to cause the necessary vibration. to the note before which they are written. They must not effect the regular time of the measure in which they are found. [Explained more fully hereafter.]

# Appoggiaturas or Grace Notes.



THE TIE.

tended to be struck. They are always notes occupying the same position on the staff, and are distinguished from the others by the Tie, or o, placed so as to extend from the first note to the one in the following example. effected. The first note only is to be struck and the time of the other counted.



THE SLUR.

The Slur is indicated by the same sign as that used for the tie, viz., or . The difference between the two is easily distinguished by observing the notes affected by them. "Tied" notes occupy the same degree of the staff, while slurred notes do not. Of the notes of the scale in which the piece is written. This note is determined

Appogiaturas or Grace Notes are small notes placed before notes of with a finger of the left hand, striking down upon the string with



Accented notes are those which are sounded louder and more distinct than others. Each variety of time has its accented counts, viz., in 4 the first and third counts are accented, in 4 the first count, in Often in a piece of music we find notes written that are not inanded to be struck. They are always notes occupying the same When other notes are designed to be accented, they are written as



# CHAPTER VI.

DIFFERENT KEYS OF MUSIC; SCALES, &c.

The Tonic or Key Note of a piece is the principal or starting note affected, strike the first one with the right hand, and make the second by the signature, which is, either flats or sharps placed at the beginning of a piece. If the signature be composed of sharps you ascertain the key-note (major) by reckoning from the last (right hand) sharp, one degree above. If composed of flats, the key-note (major) is four degrees below the last (right hand) flat.

Natural Keys have no signature, requiring neither flats or sharps. Of these there are only two, viz., C major and A minor.

#### SCALES.

A series of sounds ascending or descending in a regular fixed manner is called a scale.

There are three varieties of scales, viz.: Major, Minor, and Chromatic.

#### MAJOR AND MINOR.

The intervals in the major scale are fixed, and are the same ascending or descending. They consist of five tones and two half-tones, the half-tones being always found between the 3d and 4th, and 7th, and 8th of the scale.

The Minor Scales differ from the major scales in the position of their semitones. In ascending minor scales the semitones are between the 2d and 3d, and 7th and 8th sounds. In descending, between the 5th and 6th, and 3d and 2d sounds.

Note. Each signature gives the descending minor scale, while accidentals must be used to form the ascending scale.

A Chromatic Scale is one composed entirely of semitones.

# DIFFERENT SIGNATURES, OR KEYS.





# CHROMATIC SCALE FOR THE BANJO.

#### Three Octaves.



#### FAVORITE KEYS.

The Banjo can be played in any key, but, like the Guitar, it has its favorite ones, or those easiest of execution, viz., A, [three sharps,] E, [four sharps,] D, [two sharps,] G, [one sharp,] A minor, [natural signature,] and F# minor, [three sharps.]

#### CHAPTER VII.

# THE TURN, ...

The turn is composed of four notes, with but one note written. It begins with the first note above, extends one note below, and ends on the one over which the turn is written.

It is generally played by striking the first note and slurring the others.



A Trill embraces as many different notes as the turn. To execute it, play the first two notes as rapidly as possible one after the other during the principal part of the time required, finishing with the turn.



In trilling two written notes commence with the upper note, and end with the lower note.



EXERCISES.

FOR FAMILIARIZING THE RIGHT HAND WITH ALL OF THE STRINGS.

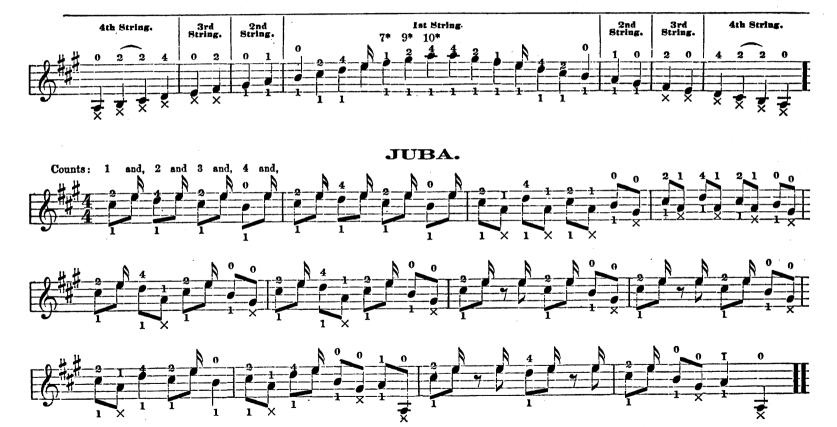
Note. Four beats or counts in each measure, a count for each quarter note or its equivalent. Each measure comprises an exercise.



# CHAPTER VIII.

# KEY OF A MAJOR.—SIGNATURE THREE SHARPS.

(NATURAL KEY OF THE BANJO.)



EXERCISE.\*



# RAMSEY'S JIG.

EXERCISE.

(Two Counts to the Measure.)



<sup>\*</sup> The pupil will practice each measure of the exercises until thoroughly acquired, as they contain all the different passages embraced in the piece following.



# HARD TIMES.

EXERCISE.



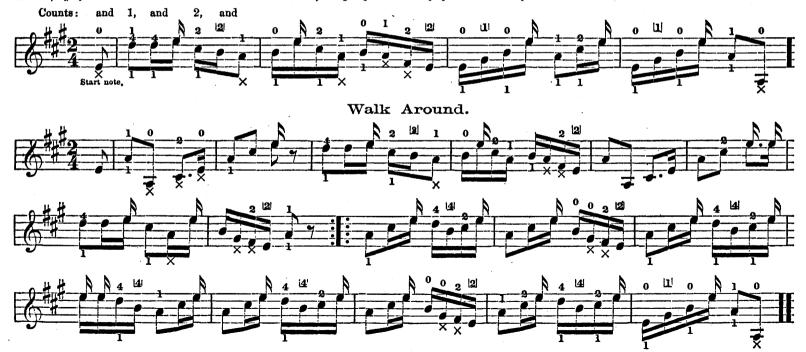


# RURAL WALK AROUND. Dance.

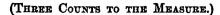
# EXERCISE.

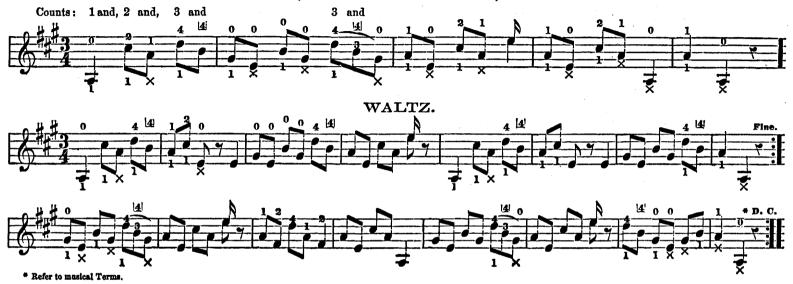
# (Introducing dotted Notes.)

Note.—(The easiest manner of counting time is by saying, "One, and two, and three, and four, and," in Four-Four time,—and, "One, and two, and," in Two-Four time.—Where dotted notes are met with, slightly accent the note before which the dot occurs. It will assist you in giving to the note the proper amount of time.]



#### EXERCISE.





# BULLY FOR ALL. Irish Jig.

EXERCISE.

# INTRODUCING THE APPOGGIATURA OR GRACE NOTE.





# WALK INTO THE PARLOR.

# EXERCISE.

Nors.—To execute the following Approgratura, place the first and second fingers on 1st and 2d strings, stopping A and C, place fourth finger on 1st string stopping D,—strike D, the approgratura) and immediately pull the string with the fourth finger, making C.]









# PHILADELPHIA JIG.





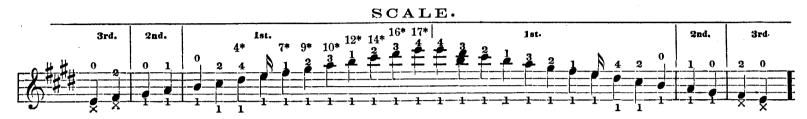
# LUKE WEST'S WALK AROUND. Dance.



# CHAPTER IX.

# KEY OF E MAJOR. SIGNATURE FOUR SHARPS.

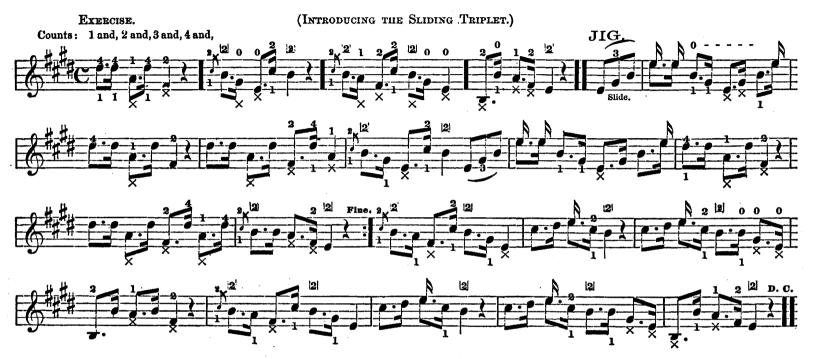
THE DS MUST BE PLAYED ONE SEMITONE HIGHER THAN IN THE KEY OF A.



# LYNCHBURG TOWN.



# SPRING JIG.



# MONEY MUSK.

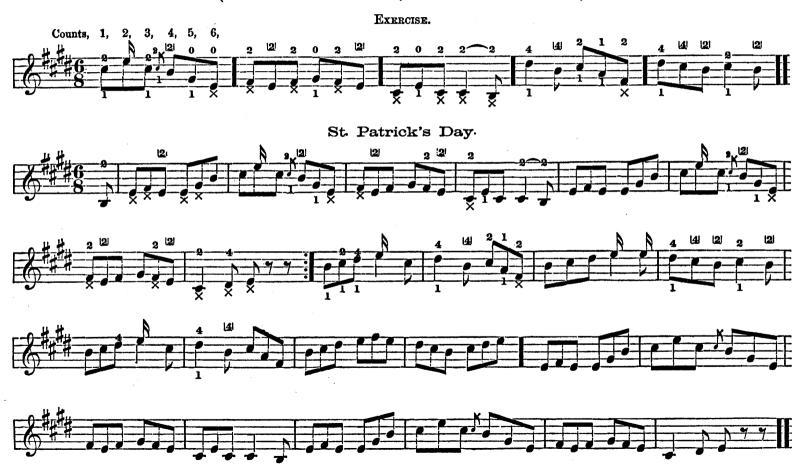






# ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

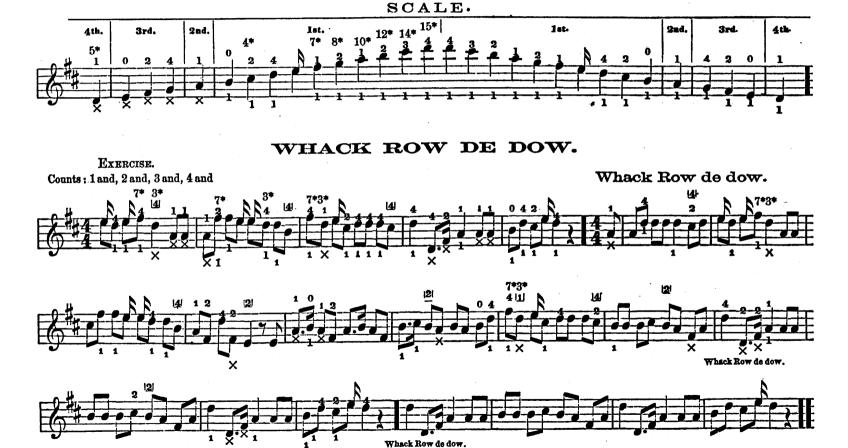
(SIX COUNTS TO THE MEASURE; ONE BEAT TO THREE COUNTS.)



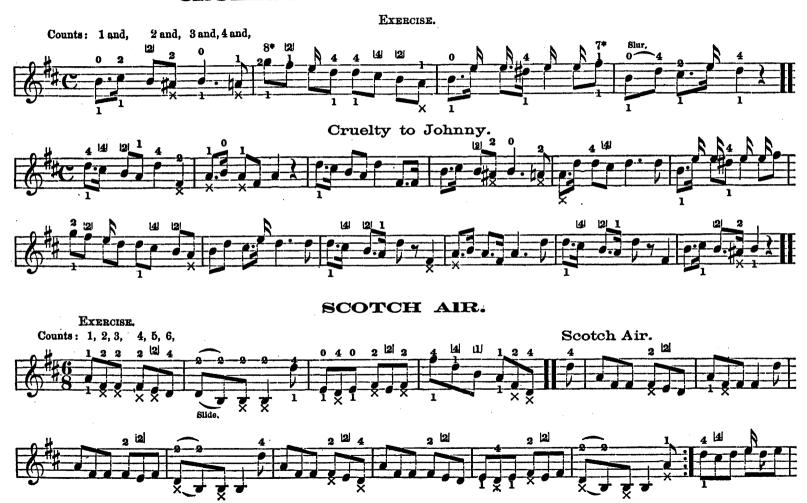
# CHAPTER X.

# KEY OF D MAJOR. SIGNATURE TWO SHARPS.

THE G'S AND D'S MUST BE PLAYED ONE SEMITONE LOWER THAN IN THE KEY OF E.



# CRUELTY TO JOHNNY. Comic Duett.





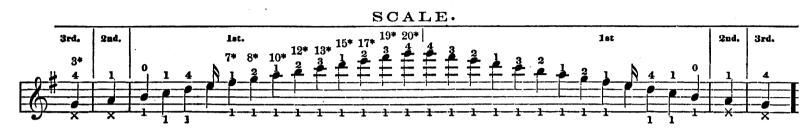
# ANTIETAM JIG.



# CHAPTER XI.

# KEY OF G MAJOR. SIGNATURE ONE SHARP.

THE C'S AND G'S MUST BE PLAYED ONE SEMITONE LOWER THAN IN THE KEY OF A.

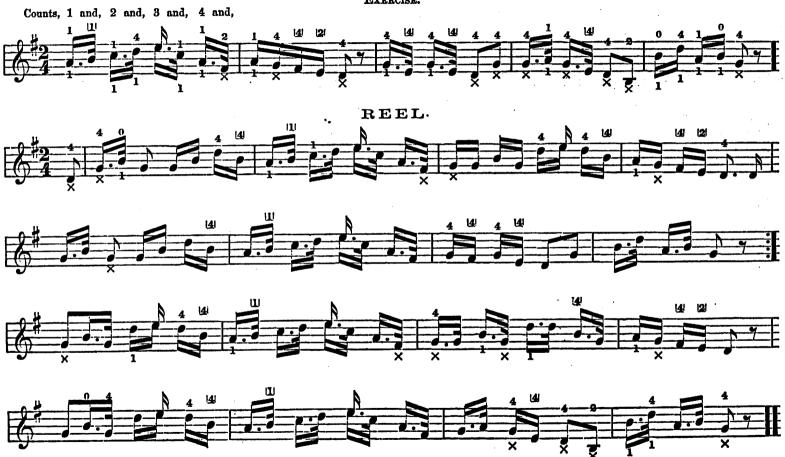


# SPRIG OF SHELALAH.

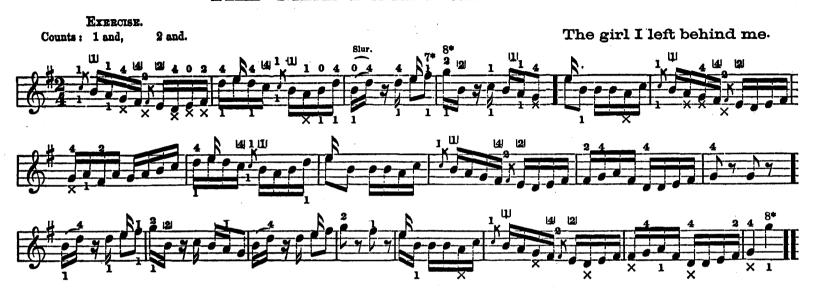


# OREGON REEL.

EXERCISE.



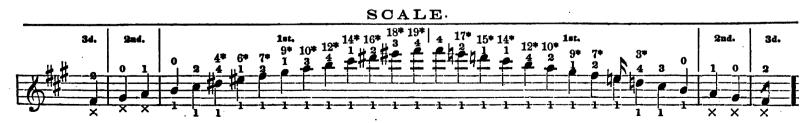
# THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.



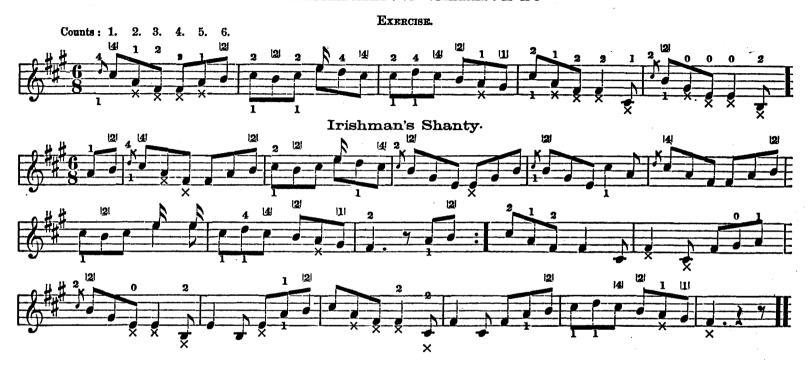
# CHAPTER XII.

KEY OF F MINOR. THE SAME SIGNATURE AS A MAJOR.

(OBSERVE CLOSELY THE SCALE.)



# IRISHMAN'S SHANTY.



# ANTIPAT JIG.



# Antipat Jig.



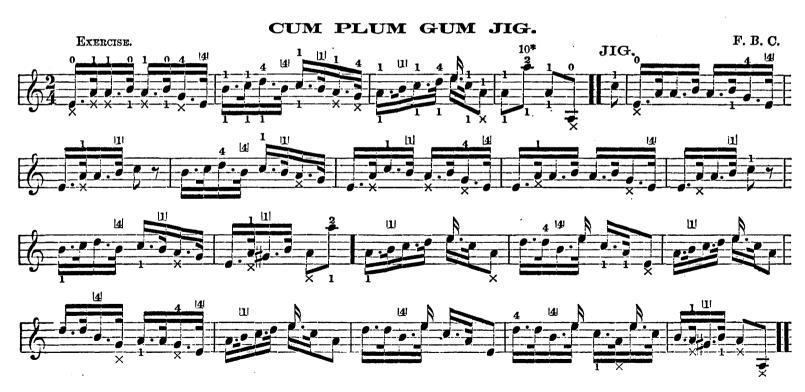
# ABRAHAM'S DAUGHTER.



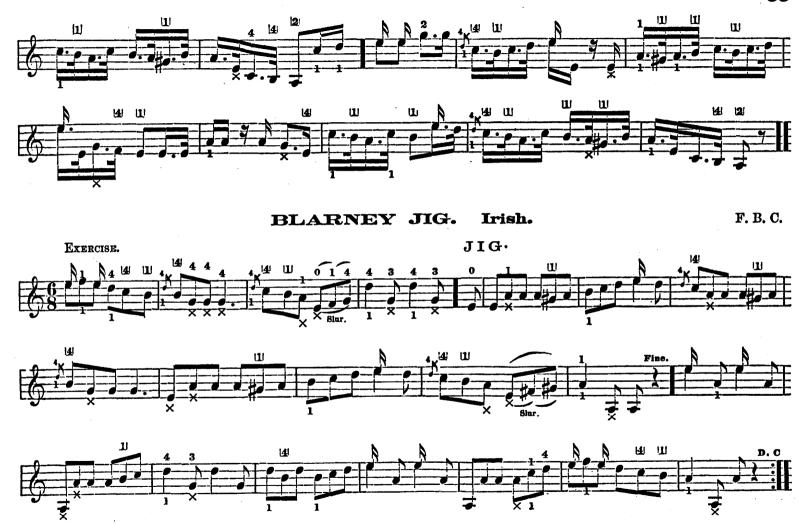
# CHAPTER XIII.

KEY OF A MINOR. NATURAL SIGNATURE.



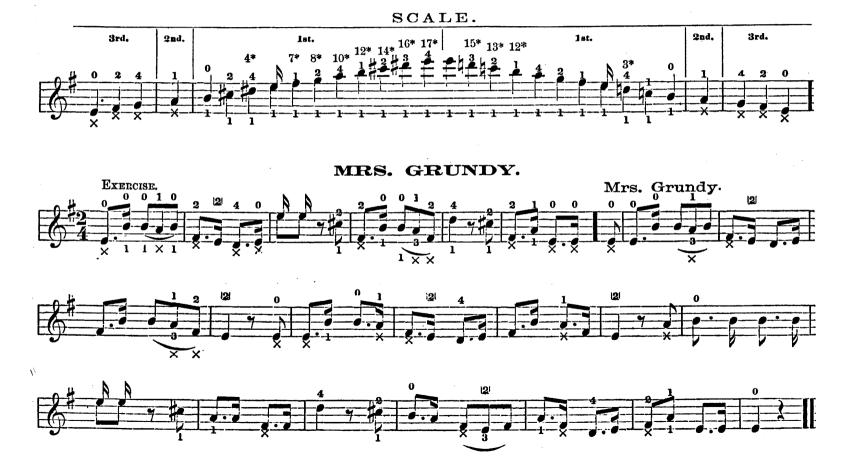




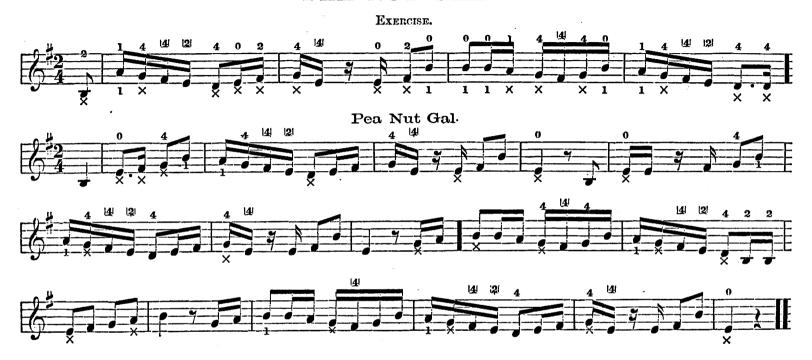


# CHAPTER XIV.

KEY OF E MINOR. SIGNATURE ONE SHARP.



### PEA NUT GAL.



# CHARLIE IS MY DARLING.





# MICKEY MALOONEY. Irish Jig.



# GUITAR STYLE.

### CHAPTER I.

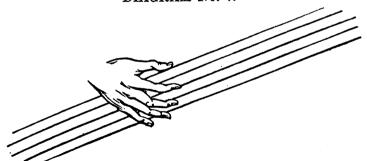
Position of the Right Hand and Proper Manner of Touching to be executed with the first, second, and third fingers. THE STRINGS: DIRECTIONS FOR FINGERING.

manner as in playing the Banjo Style. All of the fingers are used, thumb for 4th and 5th strings. This rule seldom varies. and are held a little curved over, and touching the strings about three inches from the bridge. Pull the strings with the points of the fingers and particularly avoid touching them with the nails.

To soften the sound move the hand forward, touching the strings almost directly over the rim.

POSITION OF THE RIGHT HAND.

DIAGRAM No. 7.



SIGNS FOR RIGHT HAND FINGERING, &c.

x Thumb; 1, 1st finger; 2, 2d finger; 3, 3rd finger; 4, 4th finger Chords, having a waved line placed before them, thus:



are to be played in "Harp Style," i. e., playing the notes of the chord one after the other, in rapid succession, from the lowest note upwards.

Triplets, when the notes occur on the same degree of the staff, are

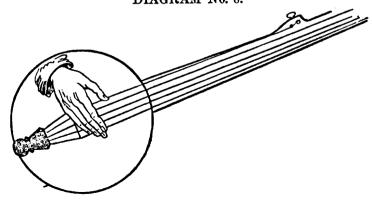
As a general rule, the strings are fingered thus, 3rd string, first The forearm rests upon the instrument in the same position and finger; 2d string, second finger; 1st string, third finger; using the

#### DRUM CHORDS.

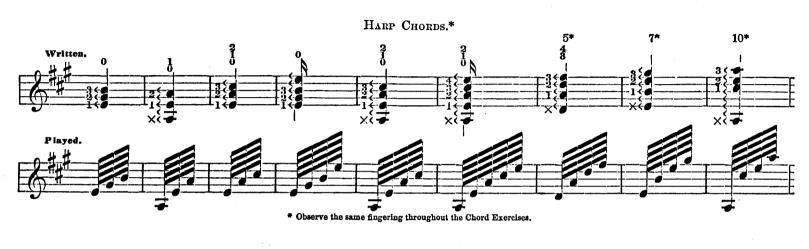
These chords are frequently used in marches, for giving a drumlike effect to certain passages. They are designated by a \* placed under them.

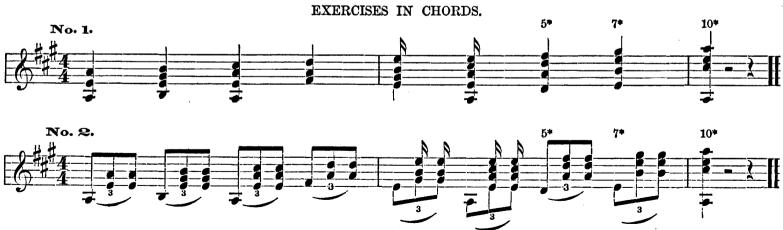
Straighten the fingers, keeping them together, raise the fore-arm from its position on the rim, bringing the hand in position across the strings, then, with a hammer-like movement, strike the strings near the bridge, making the desired chord.

> Position of Right Hand in Drum Chords. DIAGRAM No. 8.



### EXERCISES IN CHORDS.













## CHAPTER II.

KEY OF A MAJOR.

RULE.—When two notes occur that are found on the same string, make the upper one where it is written—and the other one on the next string.





### DIADEM GALLOPADE.





### LILLY POLKA.

F. B. C.









2,

Says mother, "He's a proper youth:
Say yes, girl, there's a dea - rie;
Say no, Miss Pride? her father cried
I'd only like to hear ye!
But still for all that they could say,
And all that they could say,
"No thank you sir, I'd rather not,"
Quoth little Fairy May.

8.

Come, Fairy May, your words unsay,
You silly little goo - sie!
You know within your heart of hearts,
You would'nt like to loose me:
You'll never see me here again,
If once I go away:
"Well sir! and much I care for that!"
Quoth little Fairy May.

4

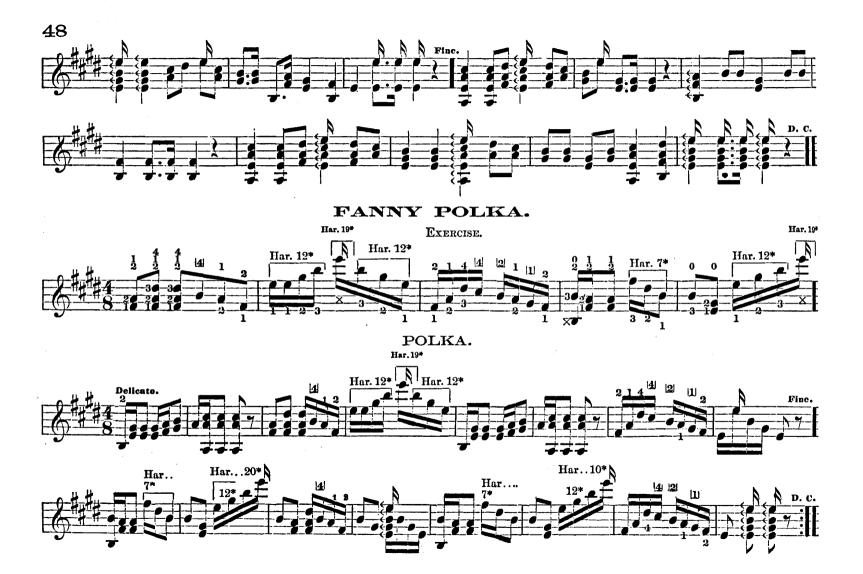
Loose such a prize! her father cries,
Say yes—or else I'll make ye!
Her mother scolds—a willful chit!
I've half a mind to shake ye!
But still for all that they could do,
And all that they could say,
"No, thank you sir, I'd rather not,"
Quoth little Fairy May.

KEY OF E MAJOR.

## LA MEXICANA WALTZ.

F. B. C.





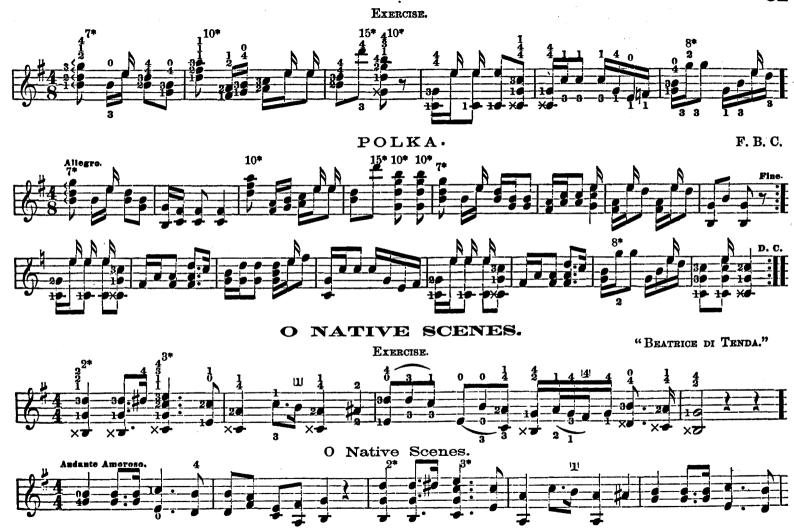












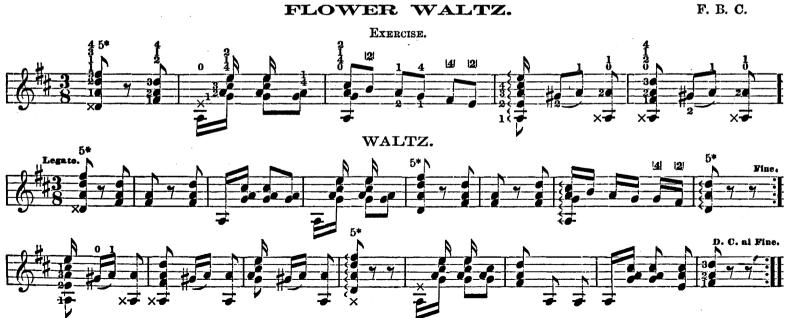




### CHAPTER V.

KEY OF D MAJOR.





## MARCH FROM NORMA.



## MARCH.



ARRANGED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK.

COMPOSED BY GEORGE BARKER.



## WHY DO SUMMER ROSES FADE.







2.

Then while summer roses last,
Oh! let's be friends together,
Summer time will soon be past,
When Autumn leaves around us cast,
And then comes wintry weather,—
Surely as the summer day,
Friendship, too, will pass away.

3.

But the summer roses fade,
And love gives place to reason,
Friendship pass without a sigh,
And all on earth pass coldly bye,
It's but a wintry season;
And friendship, love, and roses too,
he spring-time shall again renew.

### DAISEY POLKA.

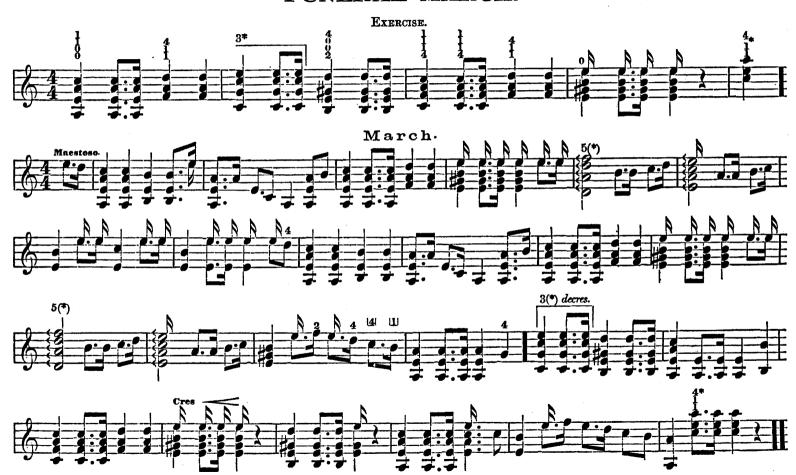


# CHAPTER VI.

KEY OF A MINOR.

## FUNERAL MARCH.

F. B. C.



#### EXAMPLE.

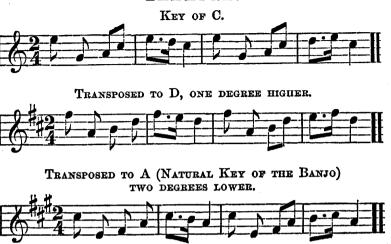
#### TRANSPOSITION.

Every Banjoist should understand, and be perfectly familiar with the manner of transposing a piece of music from one key to another.

Music arranged for other instruments, can, in many instances, by transposition be adapted to the Banjo, and songs, when written too high or too low can thus be arranged to suit the voice.

#### RULE.

Ascertain the Key of the piece as written, and then the key into which you wish to transpose, then write each note of the tune as many degrees higher or lower on the staff as the new key note is higher or lower than the old one.



# MISCELLANEOUS.

### MATT PEEL'S WALK AROUND.





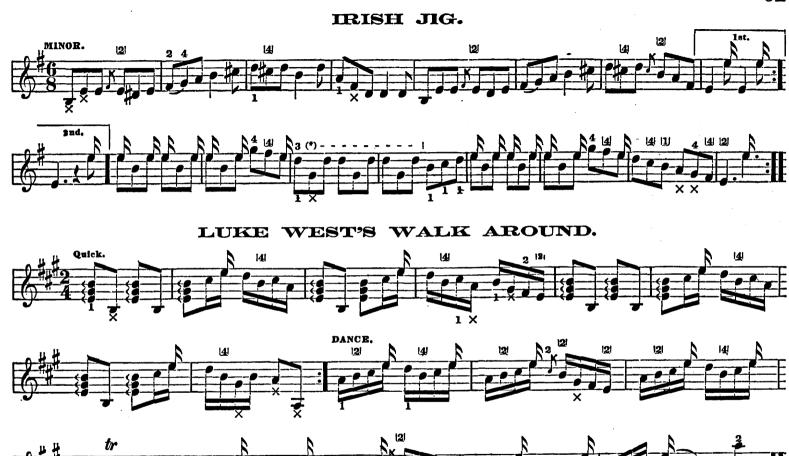
#### OPERATIC JIG.



#### BRIGHTON.

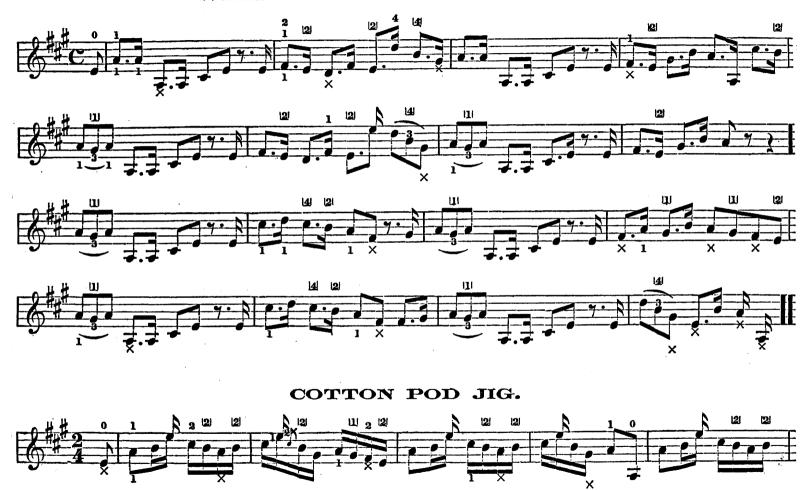


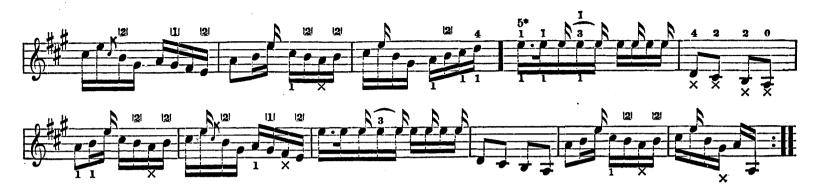


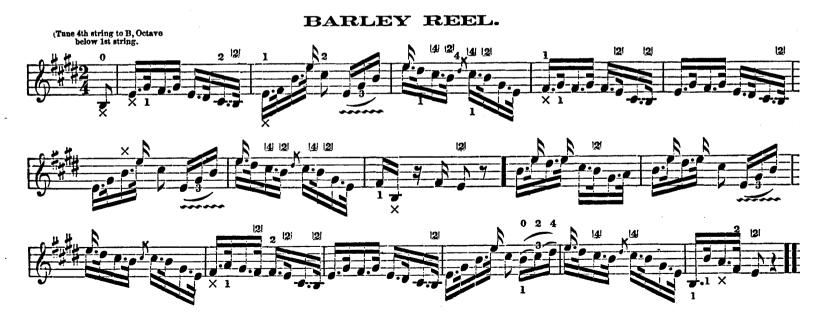


(Stop B, on second string, trill with the 1st and 2nd strings.)

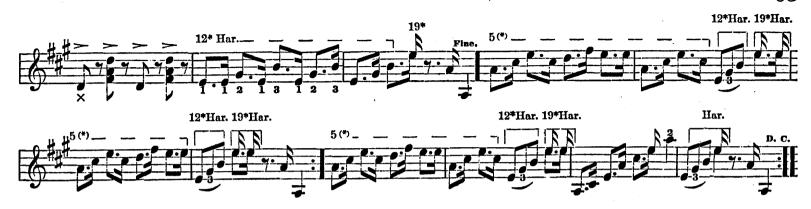
# WAIT FOR THE WAGGON. JIG.



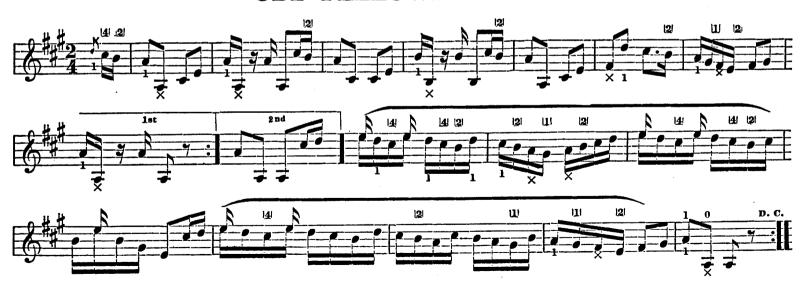




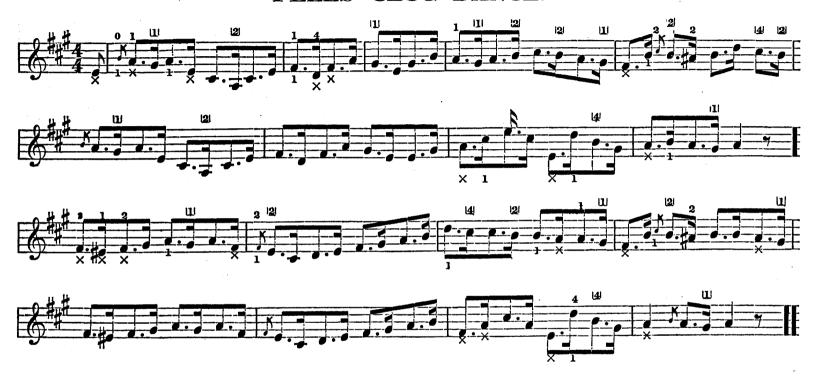




# ODD FELLOWS MARCH.



## PEELS' CLOG DANCE.



# ROOT HOG OR DIE.

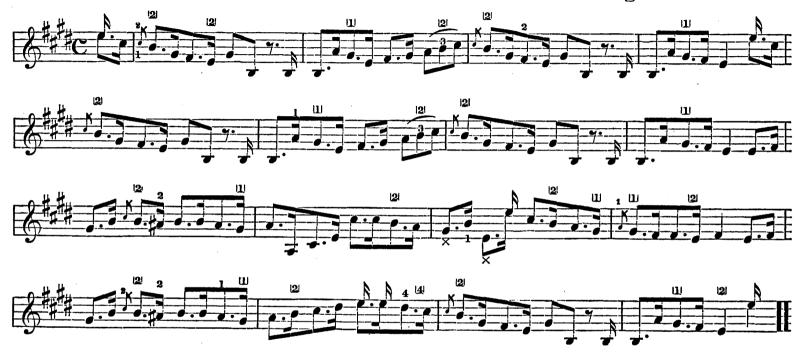




### WHOLE HOG OR NONE.



# WILLIE WE HAVE MISSED YOU. Jig.



THE LION. Slow Jig.

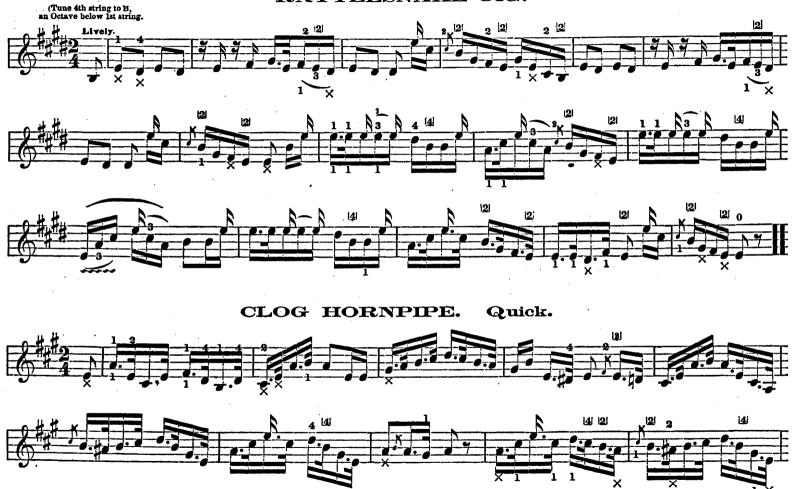
This and the following Jig are arranged to be played together.





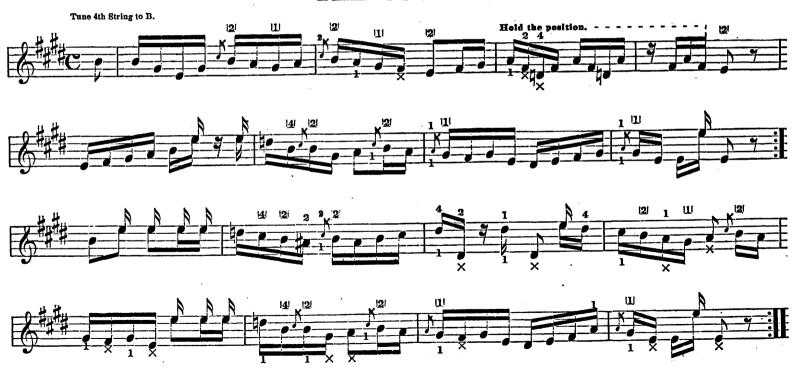


### RATTLESNAKE JIG.





### THE CUCKOO.

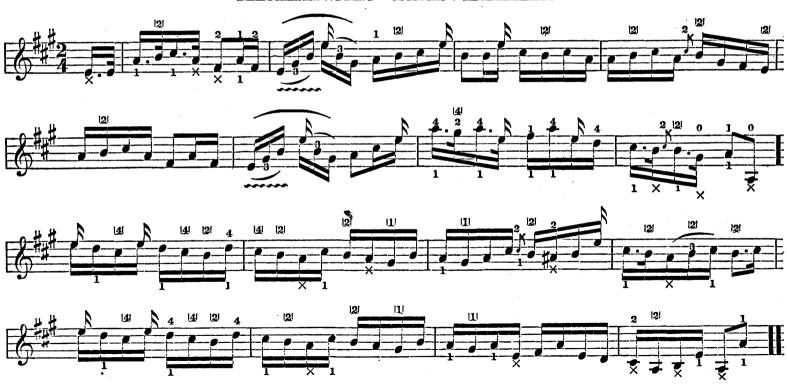






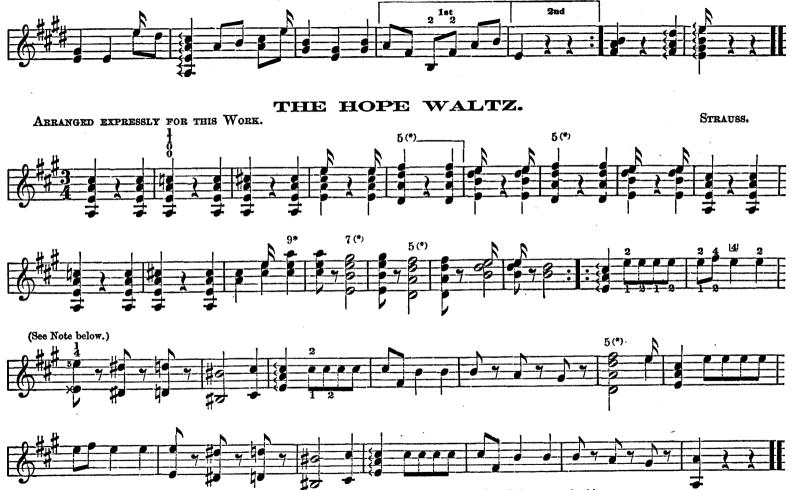


#### **ARKANSAS** TRAVELLER.

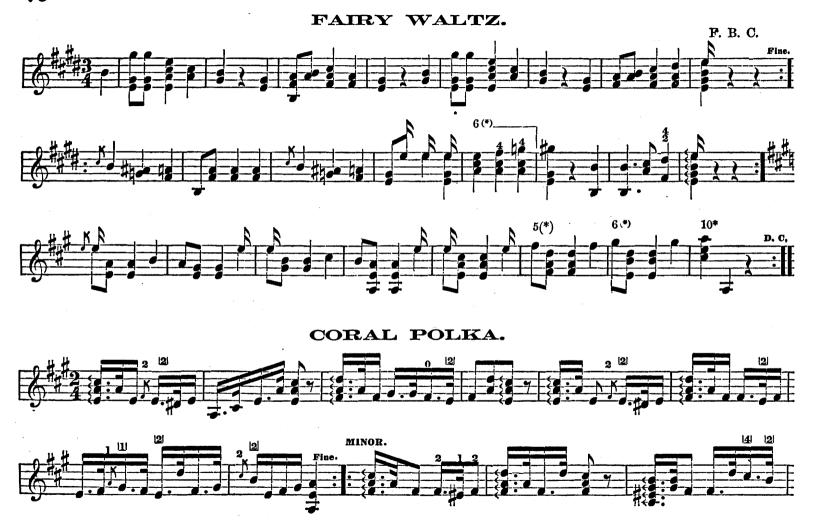


#### CUPID'S DREAM WALTZ.





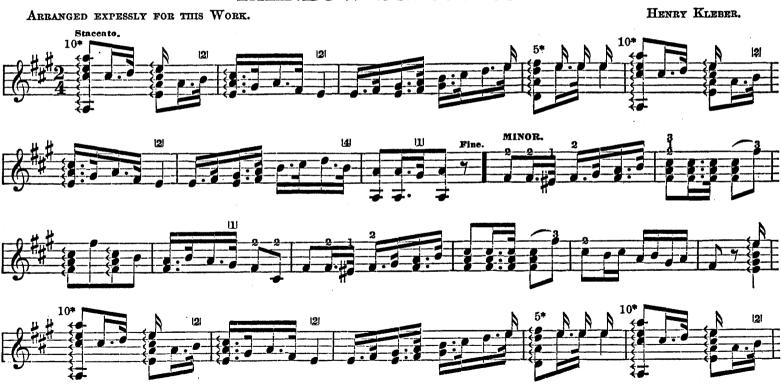
Note.—Stop the lower note with the 4th finger on 4th string, the upper note with the 1st finger; play all the octaves in this manner.







## RAINBOW SCHOTTISCH.





## CAMILLE POLKA.

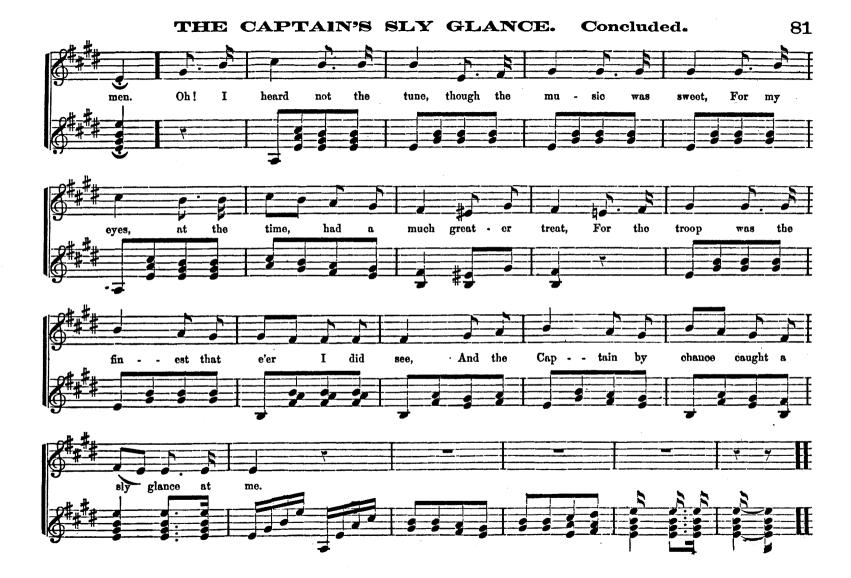




# HOME, SWEET HOME.







COMPOSED BY J. R. THOMAS. ARRANGED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK. ALLEGRETTO. ra-diance fills the calm, clear sam - mer ra-diant as the mild, warm sum - mer Their clear - light be - stow - ing!
Is charmed by thy spir - it; Their The The are glow - ing, in - her - it, young world As wθ air - ry, da - ling, And So blithe a fai - ry, · is snarl - ing, some and night! Come forth like His watch dog For fear An - nie ray! The



#### MARSEILLAISE HYMN.

